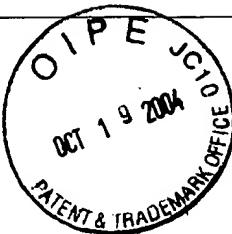




1299 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2402  
PHONE 202.783.0800  
FAX 202.383.6610  
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

*stw AS/rt/b*  
**MICHAEL J. BELL**  
PARTNER  
202.383.6500  
bellm@howrey.com

October 19, 2004



Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Mail Stop Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application No. 09/972,565  
Filed: October 5, 2001 Confirmation No.: 5365  
For: **Support Arrangement for Semi-Membrane Tank Walls**  
Inventor: Enright, Jr. et al.  
Attorney Docket No.: 02317.0006.NPUS00

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

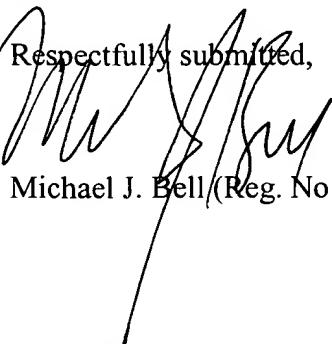
1. Petition for Extension of Time
2. Amendment and Reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
3. Return Receipt postcard

**The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge the two-month extension fee of \$430.00 (37 CFR 1.17(a)) to Deposit Account No. 08-3038, referencing the above-docket number.**

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned, and any fees therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-3038. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)

Enclosures